## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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## County Executive encourages mask-wearing at sporting events

Erie, PA – County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper encourages everyone who plays, attends and coaches any sporting event to wear a mask as much as possible to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Erie County.

Clusters of COVID-19 cases are related to sporting events in school districts and clubs in Erie County.

"The clusters are not specific to one school district or club; it's only a matter of time before all sporting events are dealing with this," Dahlkemper said. "This is not just an issue in Erie County, it's happening across the state and country. Please wear a mask whether you are on or off the field, mat or court. Data continues to show that masks work, so I'm asking you to do your part so we can continue to enjoy sports in Erie County."

The staff at the Erie County Department of Health has been partnering with schools and meeting with school administrators on a regular basis to ensure safe operations and have developed an effective working relationship.

"We have been working with schools districts since the initial closure," said Jon McEnroe, Erie County Safety/Training Coordinator, currently assigned as the school liaison for Erie County's COVID-19 response. "They have been presented with very challenging circumstances while receiving limited guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and have continued to move forward balancing student and staff safety with the desire to get our kids back into the educational environment our schools provide. School districts in Erie County have consistently communicated challenges and have implemented health department recommendations while making every effort to get students back into the classroom."

"We couldn't be more grateful to our school districts for the work they've done to try to keep their students, faculty and staff, as well as the entire Erie County community, safe. They've all been excellent partners in this fight to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Dahlkemper said.

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